



Black Hills  
Health Care System  
Department of Veterans Affairs



Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

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# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 15, 2012**

### **Outstanding Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) "2011 Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans" has been awarded to the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23 Taskforce to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness. The VA Black Hills Health Care System is a recipient of the award as part of the VA Midwest Health Care Network (VISN 23).

The award is presented in recognition of the devotion and outstanding contributions made to our Nation's homeless Veterans. The dedication and commitment to helping others exemplifies the outstanding service to our community and our Nation.

"Secretary Shinseki has pledged to end Veteran homelessness," said Steve DiStasio, Director. "VA Black Hills is dedicated to providing assistance to those Veterans in need of a hand up."

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VA Black Hills Representatives holding plaque (L-R): Dr. Andrea Conti, Chief of Staff; Steve DiStasio, Director; Dr. Gwen Fagala, Associate Chief of Staff-Mental Health; Linda Kinzler-Norheim, Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Coordinator; Clint Olive, HCHV Outreach Social Worker; Heidi Hill, Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Social Worker; Dean Cromwell, Domiciliary Chief; Heather Rystrom, GPD Social Worker.



VA Black Hills Representatives holding plaque (L-R): Steve DiStasio, Director; Loretta Alexander, Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO); Larry Pollard, Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist (HVSEPVRs); Clint Olive, HCHV Outreach Social Worker